

Appl. No. 09/804,595
Amdt. dated October 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated June 4, 2004, in which the Examiner: 1) imposed a restriction requirement requiring election of a group containing claims 1-8 and 13-20, or a group containing claims 9-12; 2) objected to the drawings because the drawings do not contain all numerals referenced in the description, and because the drawings contain numerals not referenced in the description; and 3) rejected claims 1-8 and 13-20 as anticipated by Lange et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,794). Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-8 and 13-20 and the withdrawal of claims 9-12 from consideration. Applicants address the objections to the drawings by amending the specification, as discussed below. Applicants also amend claims 1 and 13. Based on the amendments and arguments herein, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 and 13-20 are in condition for allowance.

As per the Examiner's objections to the drawings, the Examiner states that the drawings "do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: note reference numeral 14 on page 7, lines 29 and reference numeral 208 on page 8, line 21." Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that reference numeral 14 on page 7, line 29 may be found in the lower left-hand portion of Figure 1. In regard to reference numeral 208 on page 8, line 21, the specification has been amended as shown above to correct for this error. The Examiner also states that the drawings are objected to because "they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: not reference numeral of Figure 2." Applicants would consider the Examiner's suggestion, but are unable to understand the Examiner's statement. Clarification is respectfully requested.

As amended, claim 1 requires a "web server embedded within" an "agent computer program." Lange does not teach or even suggest embedding a web server in an agent computer program. Referring to Figure 1 of Lange, to the extent that the agents 22 may conceivably be considered to be agent computer programs, there exist no web servers embedded in the agents 22. Instead, Lange teaches including a web server 66 in a graphical user interface 12, as

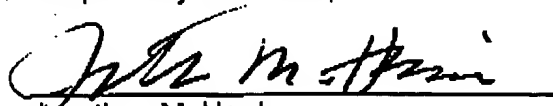
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shown in Figure 3. Embedding the web server in an agent computer program as required by claim 1 is significant because it eliminates the need for multiple agents to handle different problem domain ontologies.

As amended, claim 13 recites, "wherein the mechanism and the inter-agent communication mechanism do not require human interaction." Lange does not teach or even suggest this limitation. Instead, Lange teaches a graphical user interface 12 and a voice user interface 16 (see Figure 1). A human must interact with the interfaces 12, 16 in order to control one or more of the agents 22. Thus, because the human-related interfaces 12, 16 are the only mechanisms discussed by Lange for controlling the agents 22, human interaction is required. At least for this reason, claim 13 and all claims that depend on or from claim 13 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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